

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 217

Designation under the Plenary Powers, of a type species
for the genus *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805 (Class Pelecypoda)
in harmony with accustomed usage



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 217

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C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

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Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A
 TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS "ERYCINA"
 LAMARCK, 1805 (CLASS PELECYPODA)
 IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type selections for the genus *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck, 1805, is designated as the type species of this nominal genus.

(2) The generic name *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805 (gender of name: feminine), with the type species designated under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 650.

(3) The specific name *pellucida* Lamarck, 1805, as published in the combination *Erycina pellucida*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 28.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 31st March 1937 Dr. Harald A. Rehder (*Assistant Curator of Mollusks, Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature an application for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating for *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805 (Class Pelecypoda) a type species in harmony with accustomed usage. In his covering letter Dr. Rehder gave the names of specialists who had indicated support for the application so submitted. The text of Dr. Rehder's letter and of the application submitted therewith was as follows :—

(a) Letter dated 31st March 1937 from Dr. Harald A. Rehder.

I am enclosing a case which I would like to have come up before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, as I believe that it is of sufficient importance to merit consideration. I may say that the request for the suspension of the Rules in the case of the type of *Erycina* has been read and approved by several members of

the staff of the U.S. National Museum and the United States Geological Survey, such as Drs. Paul Bartsch, Ralph B. Stewart, Wendell P. Woodring and Julia Gardner.

(b) Application submitted by Dr. Harald A. Rehder (enclosure to letter of 31st March 1937)

PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE *REGLES* FOR THE
GENOTYPE OF *ERYCINA* LAMARCK, 1805
(CLASS PELECYPODA, ORDER
HETERONDONTA)

By HARALD A. REHDER

(Associate Curator, Division of Mollusks, Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.)

In 1805, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris* 6(36) : 413, Lamarck proposed the genus *Erycina* for a heterogeneous assemblage of six species, all fossils of the Paris basin.

In 1807 Froriep (*Lamarck Neues System der Conchylien*, Weimar : 38) mentioned *Erycina laevis* Lamarck, 1805, *loc. cit.* 6(36) : 414 (the first of the six species cited by Lamarck) as an example of the genus. This is not a type designation, although Dall apparently so considered it (1900, *Trans. Wagner Free Inst. Sci.* 3(5) : 1141 footnote).

In 1823, Children (*Quart. J. Sci.* 14 : 299) selected *Erycina cardioides* Lamarck, 1818, *Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vert.* 5 : 486, as the type, but this choice cannot be accepted, as that species was not one of the six species included in the original description of *Erycina* Lamarck.

In 1844 Recluz (*Rev. zool.* 7 : 291—299, 325—336) monographed the genus *Erycina* Lamarck, having been able, as he states, to examine Lamarck's types. Of the six original species he considered *Erycina fragilis* Lamarck, 1805, *loc. cit.* 6(36) : 415 and *Erycina elliptica* Lamarck, 1805 *loc. cit.* 6(36) : 415 to belong to *Diplodonta* Bronn, 1831, *Ergeb. nat. Reisen* 2 : 484; *Erycina inaequilatera* Lamarck, 1805, *loc. cit.* 6(36) : 415, *Erycina laevis* Lamarck, 1805, to be members of *Tellina* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 674, restricting *Erycina* Lamarck to the single species *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck, 1805, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris* 7(37) : 53. *Erycina trigona* Lamarck, 1805, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris* 6(36) : 414 he did not mention, probably because it was a single valve in poor condition.

Deshayes, 1858 (*Description des Animaux sans Vert. dec. dans le Bassin de Paris* 1 : 700—704), agreed in general with Recluz, making, however, *Erycina fragilis* Lamarck the type of the new genus *Psathura* Deshayes, 1858, *loc. cit.* 1 : 478, and doubtfully identifying *Erycina trigona* Lamarck as the valve of a species of *Corbulomya* Nyst, [1844], *Mém. cour. Acad. roy. Belgique* 17 : 59.

This has been, on the whole, the view of all subsequent workers. Following this viewpoint, Stoliczka in 1870 (*Cretaceous Fauna of Southern India* 3 (Pelecypoda) : xix) designated *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck as type, which has to the present been generally accepted.

Of course, it may logically be considered that Recluz in 1844 designated *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck as type by restriction, making *Erycina* Lamarck monotypic (See *Opinion* 6).^{*} However, five years before Recluz's careful study, appeared Anton's Catalogue of his collection (1839, *Verzeichniss der Conchylien welche sich in der Sammlung von H. E. Anton befinden*), which contains valid type designations for all the genera and subgenera mentioned. Here, on page 6, he designates *Erycina elliptica* Lamarck as type, the species which Recluz and Deshayes had placed in the genus *Diplodonta* Bronn, 1831 (now known by the name *Taras* Risso, 1826, *Hist. nat. Europe* 4 : 344).

The acceptance of Anton's type designation would mean (i) that the name *Erycina* Lamarck would be used for the group long known as *Diplodonta* Bronn and *Taras* Risso and (ii) that the genus *Erycina* of authors would need a new name. This transposition would cause endless confusion, especially as both groups are common as Tertiary fossils and used as index fossils in stratigraphy.

In view of this, it is advisable that the International Commission stabilise the status of *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805, under suspension of the rules, by placing *Erycina* Lamarck on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck, 1805, as type.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On the re-organisation of the Secretariat, following the election in 1936 of Mr. Francis Hemming as Secretary in succession to the late Dr. C. W. Stiles, the present case was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 69. It had not been found possible to advance the consideration of this case by the time that in September 1939 the outbreak of war in Europe led to the

^{*} *Opinion* 6 does not provide for the restriction of a genus containing three or more species, such as *Erycina* Lamarck ; but is expressly confined to the case of a genus "A—", established with two species only, where one of the two originally included species is subsequently made the type of a monotypical genus. For the text of *Opinion* 6, with notes thereon, see 1944, *Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 1 : 127—138.

evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942, and immediate steps were taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding cases with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. Dr. Rehder's application in the present case was sent to the printer in October 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 28th February 1947 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 221—222).

3. The publication of Dr. Rehder's application in the *Bulletin* elicited support from two quarters, the first (in order of receipt), from the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen*), the second, from the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America. These comments are reproduced in the two immediately following paragraphs.

4. *Comment by Dr. Th. Mortensen (Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen)*: In a letter dated 8th April 1947, Dr. Th. Mortensen indicated his support for Dr. Rehder's proposal by writing the word "Yes".

5. *Comment by the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America*: The view of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America on this case was submitted in a letter dated 5th November 1947 from Dr. J. Brookes Knight (*Research Associate, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*), who at that time was Chairman of the Joint Committee. The following is the text of that letter:—

On July 3rd 1947, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America submitted to the membership of the Committee for consideration and approval the following resolution:—

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America support the petition

of H. H. Rehder that the designation of *Erycina elliptica* Lamarck as genotype of *Erycina* Lamarck by Anton in 1839 be set aside under suspension of the *Règles* in favor of *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck, first designated by Stoliczka in 1870 on the ground that greater confusion than uniformity would result if the *Règles* be enforced in this case.

The vote of the membership was 10 to 1 for approval, Romer, Simpson, Newell, Palmer, Cooper, Moore, Keen, Frizzell, Reeside, and Knight voted in the affirmative. Wells voted the negative. Stenzel was away and unable to vote. There were only two comments.

Palmer wrote :—This is about a 50—50 case. I vote “Aye” on the case but it is a problem in which suspension would upset a case of a clear cut type designation. This I dislike to do. On the other hand there would be considerable confusion if the common concept of *Erycina* were disrupted. However, as far as disrupting names are concerned, the name *Diplodonta* has had to be eliminated in favor of *Taras* so that suspension will not restore that well-known name. I am not convinced that the suspension should take place but it would save some confusion if it were.

In view of the above vote the Joint Committee hereby transmits to the International Commission the Resolution adopted.

6. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 29th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objection to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the

decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 48) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 417—418) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all selections of the type species of the genus *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805 (Class Pelecypoda, Order Heterodonta) made prior to the present decision ;

(b) to designate *Erycina pellucida* Lamarck, 1805, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the generic name *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805, with the type species specified in (1)(b) above, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the trivial name *pellucida* Lamarck, 1805 (as published in the binominal combination *Erycina pellucida*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*,

(4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

8. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decisions set out in paragraph 7 above :—

Erycina Lamarck, 1805, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*, Paris 6(36) : 413
pellucida, *Erycina*, Lamarck, 1805, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*, Paris 6(37) : 53

9. The gender of the generic name *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 7 above, is feminine.

10. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth

International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 110).

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

12. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

13. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

14. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Seventeen (217)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Eighth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING